The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for producing a synchronized population of conifer somatic embryos, the method comprising the step of cultivating conifer embryogenic cells in, or on, a synchronization medium that comprises an absorbent composition and at least one synchronization agent selected from the group consisting of abscisic acid and a gibberellin, wherein the absorbent composition and the at least one synchronization agent are present at a concentration effective to produce a synchronized population of conifer somatic embryos.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent composition is selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal, soluble poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), insoluble poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), activated alumina, and silica gel.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the absorbent composition is activated charcoal.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the concentration of the absorbent composition in the synchronization medium is from about 0.5 g/L to about 50 g/L.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent composition is activated charcoal, and the activated charcoal is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration in the range of from about 0.1 g/L to about 5 g/L.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent composition is activated charcoal, and the activated charcoal is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration in the range of from about 0.5 g/L to about 1 g/L.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein abscisic acid is used as a synchronization agent.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein a gibberellin is used as a synchronization agent.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein abscisic acid and at least one gibberellin are used as synchronization agents.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein a gibberellin is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration of from about 0.5 mg/L to about 500 mg/L.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein a gibberellin is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration of from about 1.0 mg/L to about 100 mg/L.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein abscisic acid is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration of from about 1.0 mg/L to about 500 mg/L.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein abscisic acid is present in the synchronization medium at a concentration of from about 0.5 mg/L to about 20 mg/L.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the conifer embryogenic cells are cultured in, or on, the synchronization medium for a period of from about 0.5 weeks to about 5 weeks.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the conifer embryogenic cells are cultured in, or on, the synchronization medium for a period of from about 1 week to about 3 weeks.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the conifer embryogenic cells are cultured in, or on, the synchronization medium for a period of from about 1 week to about 2 weeks.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein the osmolality of the synchronization medium is from about 90 mM/Kg to about 300 mM/Kg.

18. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the synchronization medium is from about 5 to about 6.

19. The method of Claim 1, wherein Loblolly pine somatic embryos are produced from Loblolly pine embryogenic cells.

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least 50% of the embryos in the synchronized population of conifer somatic embryos are at the same developmental stage.

21. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least 75% of the embryos in the synchronized population of conifer somatic embryos are at the same developmental stage.